

To: Administrators of Green Mountain Transit  
From: Members of the City Council of Burlington  
Re: Request to present at City Council Meeting regarding bus incident on 5/23/19 involving Burlington School District students  
Date: May 28, 2019

The Green Mountain Transit (GMT) provides valuable & needed services to the residents of Burlington, Chittenden County and many other counties in our state. We, members of the Burlington City Council, are appreciative of the services provided by the transportation entity. We appreciate all the innovation currently underway to respond to the need for safe and enjoyable rides for our citizens with GMT, and especially major action in responding appropriately to our city and state efforts at reducing carbon by progressively transitioning fleets to electric buses. With the transportation services GMT provides, many staff and children of the Burlington School District are accessing school on a daily basis and in a timely manner when school is in session. We value the services you provide and the nature of our strong partnership on behalf of our citizens.

Recently, a group of concerned citizens and parents of the Burlington School District brought to our attention an alarming issue of an incident that took place on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> involving a bus driver of the bus line #47, bus number #914 at approximately 3:00pm and children from Edmunds Elementary and Middle Schools.

The Burlington City Council members received a side of the story: “The bus driver of this bus, carrying Edmunds Middle School and Edmunds Elementary School students, forced approximately 17 students of color to disembark because they were singing and clapping.” Children ranged in ages from 5 to 13 years old.

The Burlington City Council members via our city council president respectfully requests a member(s) of the GMT administration to present at our next City Council meeting to explain the nature of the incident that took place on May 23, 2019 involving Elementary and Middle Schools students of Burlington and Bus driver of Bus number 914. In addition, a general overview of the following questions would be much appreciated:

- Nature of the partnership between GMT and The City of Burlington
- Nature of the partnership between GMT and The Burlington School District
- Safety measures ensuring the safety and well being of all GMT riders
- The types of incidents GMT bus drivers encounter on a daily basis and how often they occur
- How GMT collects and addresses customer complaints
- How our municipality and its departments (including BSD) can better collaborate with GMT to address safety and prevent behavioral incidences.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,  
City Council members: Dieng, Tracy,